Name/Title: Fairbanks Fast Square

Purpose of Event: Respect and cooperation with partners and group; practicing previously learned square dance steps.

Prerequisites: Elbow turns; Do-si-do; Star Right and left

Suggested Grade Level: 3-5

Materials Needed: Two colors of tape placed on floor to mark the positions for each square (we use green and yellow for partners - tape the heads and sides of the square; two colors of pinnies (match tape color); CD or tape player (a cordless microphone is a great voice saver), music (we use "Cotton-eyed Joe" by Rednex, or "Irish Washerwoman"

Description of Idea

Give each student a pinnie that matches the color tape they are standing on (ie. one partner is yellow, one is green). We do this to eliminate having to have boy/girl partners. When pointing out who their corner is, remind them their corner, like their partner is wearing a different color than themselves.

First 16 counts:
Heads to the center and back (we have them give each other a "high 10") (4 counts in and 4 counts back)
Sides to the center and back

Next 16 counts:
Right elbow turn your partner in eight counts
Left elbow turn your corner in eight counts

Next 16 counts:
Do-si-do your partner in eight counts
Do-si-do your corner in eight counts

Next segment of dance - no counts kept:
Race around the set. We give each side of the set a name: North, south, east and west. When we call out one of these sides, the partners race around the set with the partner on the right going to the right, and the partner on the left going to the left. They race each other back to their place. Remind them to be careful when they pass by each other.

Next 16 counts:
Yellows right hand star for eight counts
Yellows left hand star for eight counts

Next 16 counts:
Greens right hand star for eight counts
Greens left hand star for eight counts

With 3rd and 4th grades, this is where we start the dance all over again.

With 5th and 6th grade, we finish with a "Grand right and left": All students face their partner giving them their right hand. As they pull their partner pass them and walk to the next person, their left hand is extended to take that of the next person. This continues until they are back to their original starting place (for us this means they will pass their partner half way around then meet them where they started). By wearing pinnies, they are reminded that they do not take hands with anyone wearing the same color as themselves.

Repeat the dance

Assessment Ideas:

We evaluate the students on how willing they are to learn all the steps, and cooperate with their partners and the whole group

Adaptations for Students with Disabilities:

We have many intensive resource students integrated in all our classes. Most of these students pick up all these moves (with the exception of the "grand right and left") with only needing a little extra guidance (from the teacher or their partners). We have a student in a wheel chair that can do the turns (using a hand hold instead of elbow and an aide to maneuver the chair).

Submitted by **Lucy Lorenz** who teaches at Ladd Elementary in Fairbanks, AK. Additional authors for this idea were Bobbi Janiro. Thanks for contributing to PE Central! **Posted on PEC: 3/6/2002**.

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